***The Scarlet Letter: Questions for Chapters 16-20 (pages 173-214)***

Directions: Please answer the following questions as you read the assigned chapters.

***Chapter 16***

1. What does Hester try to grasp that disappears when she does?

2. What story had an old woman told to Pearl?

3. Who does Pearl think approaches her and Hester in the forest?

***Chapter 17***

1. How does Dimmesdale feel about the “good work” that he does in the community?

2. What reason does Dimmesdale have for saying that Hester is “happy” (lucky)?

3. Why does Hester feel responsible for a “deep injury” that she has done to Dimmesdale?

4. What does Hester say to Dimmesdale that changes his mind about the possibility of leaving Boston?

***Chapter 18***

1. What causes Dimmesdale to have hope and joy?

2. What action of Hester makes her appear young and beautiful once more?

3. What has Pearl been doing in the forest?

***Chapter 19***

1. According to Dimmesdale, how do children normally behave around him?

2. What causes Pearl to howl and shriek?

3. What does Hester have to do to get Pearl finally to agree to join Hester and Dimmesdale on the other side of the brook?

4. How does Pearl treat Dimmesdale when Hester asks Pearl to seek the minister’s blessing?

***Chapter 20***

1. Where do Dimmesdale and Hester plan to go in the next few days?

2. What does Dimmesdale plan to do in his Election Day sermon?

3. How has the meeting with Hester changed Dimmesdale?

4. What does Mistress Hibbins say that Dimmesdale has been doing in the forest?

5. What does Dimmesdale refuse to accept from Chillingworth?